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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 1 to 15 November 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Details of violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 1 to 15 November 1998

1. In the northern region, 113 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar and Sinjar.

2. In the southern region, 738 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basra, Shatrah, Qal'at Salih, Maymunah, Rifa'i, Kut, Mu'ayanah, Diwaniyah, Amarah, Umm Qasr, Safwan, Ali al-Gharbi, Abu Sukhayr, Shu'aybah, Najaf, Nu'maniyah, Nukhayb, Lasaf, Habariyah, Rahhaliyah, 'Afak, Hayy, Qala't Sukkar and Ali al-Sharqi.

3. Nine sorties were flown by United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1435 hours on 1 November 1998, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the city of Umm Qasr.

5. At 1045, 1110, 1145, 1515 and 1635 hours on 2 November 1998, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the city of Umm Qasr.

6. At 1026, 1030, 1100, 1210, 1510, 1533, 1539, 1645 and 1653 hours on 3 November 1998, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the city of Umm Qasr.

7. At 1150 and 1510 hours on 4 November 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the city of Umm Qasr.

8. At 1426 hours on 9 November 1998, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the city of Umm Qasr.